

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION**

**FACT SHEET
APPLICATION FOR
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT
AND
WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR
RIVERSIDE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT, OWNER/OPERATOR
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, OWNER/OPERATOR
COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT, OWNER/OPERATOR
AND INCORPORATED CITIES OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY WITHIN THE
WHITEWATER RIVER BASIN, OWNERS/OPERATORS
FOR THE DISCHARGE OF
WHITEWATER RIVER WATERSHED STORM WATER
Riverside County**

Public Notice No. 7-01-18
Application NPDES No. CAS617002
Board Order No. 01-077

DESCRIPTION:

The following pages contain information concerning an application for renewal of waste discharge requirements and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit, Board Order No. 01-077, NPDES No. CAS617002. The attached prescribes waste discharge requirements for urban storm water run-off from the cities and the unincorporated areas in Riverside County within the jurisdiction of the Colorado River Basin Regional Board.

On December 15, 2000, the Riverside County Flood Control District and the County of Riverside, along with Coachella Valley Water District and City of Banning, City of Cathedral City, City of Coachella, City of Desert Hot Springs, City of Indian Wells, City of Indio, City of La Quinta, City of Palm Desert, City of Palm Springs, and the City of Rancho Mirage, submitted NPDES Application No. CAS617002 for storm water discharge permit under NPDES. The permit application was submitted in accordance with the previous NPDES permit (Order No. 96-015, NPDES No. CAS617002) which will expire on May 22, 2001. Additionally, the permit application follows guidance provided by staff of the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Boards).

PROJECT AREA

This Board Order applies to the urbanized areas that lie approximately between the San Gorgonio Pass area to the northwest and the Salton Sea to the southeast. The majority of this area is in the Coachella Valley. The generally northwest-southeast trending Coachella Valley is in the northern portion of a large low area in the Colorado Desert known as the Salton Basin with major drainage to the Salton Sea. The San Jacinto Mountains bound the Coachella Valley on the southwest, and the San Gorgonio Mountains, Indio Hills and Mecca Hills bound the Coachella Valley on the northeast side. Major drainage is through the Whitewater River, and its tributaries, which reach the northern end of the Salton Sea. The headwaters of the Whitewater River originate from Mt. San Gorgonio. The valley surface is characterized as wide, boulderly, alluvial fans and sand dunes.

CLEAN WATER ACT REQUIREMENTS

The Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) allows the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to delegate its NPDES permitting authority to states with an approved environmental regulatory program. The State of California is one of the delegated states. The Porter-Cologne Act (California Water Code) authorizes the State Board, through its Regional Boards, to regulate and control the discharge of pollutants into waters of the State and tributaries thereto. Section 405 of the Water Quality Act (WQA) of 1987 added Section 402(p) to the CWA. Pursuant to Section 402(p)(4) of the CWA, the USEPA promulgated regulations for storm water permit applications for storm water discharges associated with industrial activities and municipal separate storm drain systems serving a population of 100,000 or more. This permit governing municipal stormwater discharges meets both the statutory requirements of Section 402(p)(3)(B) and all requirements applicable to an NPDES permit issued under the issuing authority's discretionary authority in accordance with Section 401(a)(1)(B) of the CWA.

AREA-WIDE STORMWATER PERMIT

To regulate and control stormwater discharges from the Riverside County area to the municipal storm drain systems, an area-wide approach is essential. The entire storm drain system is not controlled by a single entity; the County, several Cities, the State Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in addition to other entities (i.e. CVWD), manage the systems. The management and control of the entire flood control system cannot be effectively carried out without the cooperation and efforts of all these entities. Also, it would not be meaningful to issue a separate storm water permit to each of the entities within the permitted area whose land/facilities drain into the storm drain systems operated by the Permittees. The Regional Board has concluded that the best management option for the Riverside County area is to issue an area-wide storm water permit to the Riverside County Flood Control District, Riverside County, Coachella Valley Water District and the cities in Riverside County. A separate stormwater NPDES permit has been issued to Caltrans. Stormwater discharges from other state, federal, utility, or special district facilities and state or federal lands will either be added to the Riverside County permit or permitted separately.

COORDINATION WITH OTHER REGIONAL AGENCIES

In developing best management practices and monitoring programs, consultation/coordination with other drainage management entities and other Regional Boards is essential. Regional Board staff will coordinate the program with other Regional Boards and other flood control entities/cities on an "as needed" basis. The permit/program process is at the same stage of development in both the Santa Ana and San Diego Regional Board areas of Riverside County. Common programs, reports, implementation schedules and efforts are desirable and will be utilized to the maximum extent practicable.

EXISTING FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

Within the project area Riverside County serves a population of approximately 250,000. Storm water discharges from urbanized areas consist mainly of surface runoff from residential, commercial, and industrial developments. In addition, there are storm water discharges from agricultural land uses. The constituents of concern and significance in storm water discharges are: total suspended solids, biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), chemical oxygen demand (COD), oil and grease (O&G), heavy metals, nutrients and organic chemicals such as base/neutral and acid extractables, pesticides and herbicides, and petroleum hydrocarbon components.

To protect the beneficial uses of waters of the State, the pollutants from all sources need to be controlled. Recognizing this, and the fact that storm water discharges contain pollutants, the Permittees and the Regional Board have all agreed that an area-wide storm water permit is the most effective way to develop and implement a comprehensive storm water management program in a timely manner. This area-wide storm water permit contains requirements with time schedules that will allow the Permittees to continue to address water quality problems caused by urban storm water runoff through their management programs to reduce pollutants in storm water discharges to the maximum extent practicable.

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with Section 402(p)(3), as part of a program to reduce the pollutants in storm water discharges to the maximum extent practicable, the Permittees have been required to submit existing management plans and programs being implemented or developed in the previous municipal storm water NPDES permit to reduce pollutants in storm water discharges. In addition, the permittees will be required to report, review and/or revise the management programs and control measures in accordance with a time schedule approved by the Executive Officer of the Regional Board for this municipal permit.

If existing management programs are not effective in controlling pollutant loading and in achieving the water quality objectives of the receiving waters, additional programs shall be developed and implemented upon consultation and approval of the Regional Board's Executive Officer.

The permit also requires the development and implementation of management programs and/or best management practices (BMPs) during the life of the permit such that the quality of storm water discharged can be improved and the water quality objectives of the receiving waters ultimately can be met. It is also expected that through implementation of these programs and/or BMPs the beneficial uses of the receiving waters will be protected.

BENEFICIAL USES

Storm water flows which are discharged to municipal storm drain systems in Riverside County are tributary to the Salton Sea. The beneficial uses of Salton Sea and its tributaries include municipal and domestic supply, agricultural supply, industrial service supply, industrial process supply, groundwater recharge, water contact recreation, non-contact water recreation, warm freshwater habitat, cold freshwater habitat, wildlife habitat, and preservation of rare and endangered species. The ultimate goal of this storm water management program is to protect the beneficial uses of the receiving waters.

ANTI-DEGRADATION ANALYSIS

The Regional Board has considered whether a complete anti-degradation analysis, pursuant to 40 CFR 131.12 and State Board Resolution No. 68-16, is required for these storm water discharges. The Regional Board finds that the pollutant loading rates to the receiving waters will be reduced with the implementation of the requirements in this Order. As a result, the quality of storm water discharges and receiving waters will be improved, thereby protecting the beneficial uses of waters of the United States. This is consistent with the federal and state anti-degradation requirements and a complete anti-degradation analysis is not necessary.

PUBLIC WORKSHOP

The Regional Board recognizes the significance of Riverside County's Storm Water/Cleanwater Protection Program and will conduct, participate, and/or assist with at least one workshop every year during the term of this permit to promote and discuss the progress of the storm water management program. The details of the annual workshop will be published in local newspapers and mailed to interested parties. Persons wishing to be included in the mailing list for any of the items related to this permit may register their name, mailing address and phone number with the Regional Board office at the address given below.

WRITTEN COMMENTS

All interested persons and agencies are invited to submit written comments on the proposed discharge and the Regional Board's Executive Officer's proposed determinations. Comments should be submitted not later than May 15, 2001, either in person or by mail to:

Executive Officer
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin Region
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260

The application number shall appear on the first page of any submitted comments. All comments received by the above date will be considered in the formulation of the final determinations.

INFORMATION AND COPYING

Persons wishing further information may write to the above address or call the Regional Board at (760) 346-7491. Copies of the application, proposed waste discharge requirements and other documents (other than those which the Regional Board's Executive Officer maintains as confidential), are available at the Regional Board office for inspection and copying.

Register of Interested Persons

Any person interested in a particular application or group of applications may leave his/her name, address and phone number as part of the file for the application. This list of names will be maintained as a means for persons with an interest in an application to contact others with similar interests.

Public Hearing

If submitted comments indicate a significant public interest in the application, or if the Regional Board's Executive Officer believes useful information may be produced thereby, the Regional Board's Executive Officer, at his discretion, may hold a public hearing on the application. Any person may request the Regional Board's Executive Officer to hold a public hearing on the application.

Public notice of a hearing will be circulated at least 30 days in advance of the hearing. Further information regarding the conduct and nature of public hearings concerning discharge permits may be obtained by writing or visiting the Regional Board office.

Waste Discharge Requirements Appeals

Any person may petition the State Board to review the decision of the Regional Board regarding Waste Discharge Requirements. A petition must be made within 30 days of the Regional Board's hearing.

Additional Information

Persons wishing further information may write to the following address:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin Region
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100
Palm Desert, CA 92260

or call the Regional Board at (760) 346-7491